PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

2025 | OLDER CHILDREN'S LESSON (Second Grade to Fifth Grade)

SEPTEMBER 7–OCTOBER 5

Timeframe: About 50 minutes
JoAnne Sharp, CCE

Key Concepts:

Peace means getting along with others, being kind, and helping our world feel calm and safe.

Reconciliation means fixing a relationship when someone has been hurt — it's saying "I'm sorry" and choosing to forgive.

Justice means making sure everyone is treated fairly and with love, just like God wants.

Peace is also something we **create with our words and actions**.

Jesus wants us to be **peacemakers** in our families, schools, churches and communities. (John 14:27)

"Peace is an Offering" by Annette LeBox shows us that **peace can be shared in small, everyday ways**.

The PC(USA) Peace and Global Witness Offering helps people share God's peace, fix broken relationships (reconciliation), and work toward fairness (justice) — **locally and globally**.

We all have an important part to play in God's work of peace!

Supplies

- Copy of the book **"Peace is an Offering"** by Annette LeBox or use the link to share the book via YouTube: youtube.com/watch?v=duoekUfXVYM
- Bible or Romans 14:19 printed for each student
- Printed symbols of peace, reconciliation and justice images
- Blank Jenga blocks: amzn.to/4kFKB4J
- Fine-tip markers or Sharpies
- World map or globe
- Other materials for activities from the Peace & Global Witness Activity Sheet

Welcome and Opening Prayer (5–7 minutes)

- Welcome students warmly and introduce the theme of **peace**.
- Ask: *"What does peace mean to you?"* (Write responses on a large flip chart or board.)
- Pray together, asking God to help us be peacemakers like Jesus.
- Scavenger Hunt for symbols of peace, reconciliation and justice

Bible Time and Book Sharing (10 minutes)

Bible Connections — Romans 14:19 (3 minutes)

- Read aloud:

"Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding." — Romans 14:19 (NRSVUE)

- Explain in simple terms:
  — **Pursue** means to go after something with all your heart.
  — **Peace** means being kind and not hurting others.
  — **Mutual upbuilding** means helping each other grow stronger in love and faith.

Read Aloud: "Peace is an Offering" by Annette LeBox (7 minutes)

- Read the story aloud, pausing to show the pictures and ask questions like:
  — *What peaceful acts do you see in the story?*
  — *Which one have you done or seen before?*
- Or share the book via the YouTube link and then ask the above questions.

PC(USA) Churchwide Special Offerings — Peace and Global Witness (5 minutes)

Mini-Talk: PC(USA) Peace and Global Witness Offering

- Explain in kid-friendly language:
  — This is a s**pecial offering** that helps bring **God's peace, fairness (justice) and healing (reconciliation)** to people all over the world. Thousands of Presbyterian churches will receive this Offering around World Communion Sunday.
  — Some of the money helps our **local community** — people who need food, safety or kindness.
  — Some of it goes to **other countries** to help children and families who are hurting from war or unfair treatment.
  — Show a **globe or map** and talk about how we can share peace near and far.

Ask:

- *How can we help others feel God's peace?*
- *Why do you think Jesus wants us to care about people around the world?*

Show the coin box and remind the students when the coin boxes need to come back. Remind them to put their coin box where they can see it every day.

Game: "Peaceful Builders" (7–10 minutes)

Materials:

- Jenga blocks or stacking cups
- Marker (to pre-write or let kids write peaceful actions on blocks)

How to Play:

- Each child picks a block or cup, says a **peaceful word or action** and stacks it.
  — Examples: "Helping," "Including others," "Saying sorry," "Listening"
- Talk about how each action **builds peace** — like building the tower.
- If the tower falls, discuss how we can always **rebuild peace**, even when it gets broken.

Hands-On Activities (10–15 minutes)

Select activities from the Activity Sheet that are suitable for your group.

Wrap-Up and Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Recap key points:

- *What is peace? What did Romans 14:19 teach us?*
- *What did we learn from the book and our activities?*

Pray together:

- Thank God for God's peace.
- Ask for help in **building peace, showing justice and forgiving others**.

QUESTIONS?
Feel free to contact us at
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pcusa.org/peace-global